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BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1966

1. Dr. Bidsbury C. 407
2. Mr. Morley Parry A. 429
3. Mr. Perry A. 405
A 104

A decorative horizontal line consisting of a series of small, stylized floral or star-like motifs connected by thin lines, with a central cluster of larger, more complex floral patterns.

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, 1966-67

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor A.W.S.Holloway
Deputy Mayor	Councillor S.B.Harris
Aldermen	
	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.S.Jones
	J.A.Pittaway
Councillors	
	A.G.I.Cardno
	P.C.G.Clarke
	R.D.N.Fabricius
	Mrs.T.D.Hammond
	R.Jolliffe
	D.Platts
	H.Roberts
	V.H.Rohan
	Mrs.A.Sandles
	M.H.Wynne

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E., M.I.H.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Certificated Meat & Food Inspector
Additional Public Health Inspector	Richard Hill, M.A.P.H.I., Certificated Meat & Food Inspector Certificates in Sanitary Science (Meat and Foods) Liverpool School of Hygiene

Public Health Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

Tel. Droitwich 2352.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

August, 1967

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 12th Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

The general health of the inhabitants remained good, there being no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease, as can be seen from the Statistical Tables on Pages 2, 3 & 12. Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, but nowadays as many cases are deleted as added to the Register, so that total numbers remain small. A case of Paratyphoid Fever occurring in a child can really be attributed to another District, as it was acquired because mother was Nursing in a Hospital some miles away. No other serious problems were encountered.

The year was a busy one for the Town Development Committee. Roads and sewers were laid for the first phase of development on the Chawson Estate and sufficient houses erected for Birmingham families to be welcomed to the town early in 1967. A draft Town Centre Plan was also presented to the Council, but this remained at the confidential stage until an Exhibition in February, 1967, when criticism was invited from all interested parties.

The sewage disposal problem has been solved temporarily by the installation of a 'Pasveer' Ditch close to the existing Disposal Works at Hampton Road (see Section 'C'). This was necessary to permit development to continue in the interim period before the new Ladywood Works are completed in 1970. News has now been received that the Ministry have approved the construction of a second 'Pasveer' Ditch on a permanent basis at Ladywood. This means that there is no real reason why housing development should not continue at a steady pace during the next five years, for experience has shown that such installations can be completed in nine months, and produce an effluent which will satisfy the Severn River Authority. Doubts still exist as to the permanency of such results; nevertheless, it is a pity that traditional works have to be proceeded with for the financial saving with the 'Pasveer' system is considerable.

May I express my sincere appreciation of the most valuable work carried out by Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hill during the year, and to the clerical staff who continue to deal efficiently with an ever increasing amount of paperwork.

I remain, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid-1966	8,860
Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1966 (according to Rate books)	2,702
Rateable value at 31st March, 1966	£356,203
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1966	£1,410

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	61	76	137	
Illegitimate	5	6	11	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				7.4%
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...			16.7
Birth Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	17.7
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	-	-	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				6.7
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	15.4
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	53	51	104	
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...		8.4
Death Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	11.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	1	1	
Illegitimate	2	-	2	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...		20.2
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	19.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	-	1	1	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...		13.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	12.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	13.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate - England and Wales	...	...	...	26.3
Maternal Deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births				Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

(in accordance with the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955")

		<u>YEAR 1966</u>		
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
2.	" " Lung, bronchus	5	3	8
3.	" " Uterus	-	1	1
4.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3	10
5.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	9	17
6.	Coronary disease, angina	10	5	15
7.	Other heart diseases	3	10	13
8.	Other circulatory diseases	2	1	3
9.	Influenza	1	-	1
10.	Pneumonia	2	6	8
11.	Bronchitis	4	4	8
12.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
13.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
14.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	6	15
15.	Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-
16.	All other accidents	1	1	2
		53	51	104

End of Section "A"

SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is provided by the Hospital Management Committee. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) Home Help Service

This service has now been taken over by the County Council from the W.V.S. being administered from the Royal George Buildings, Hanbury Road, Droitwich. The service provides domestic help for the aged in case of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 9 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	53 (61)
Maternity	3 (12)
Tuberculosis	1 (-)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year)

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully, 2497 meals being served during the year.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domiciliary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 4,760 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 5,756 the previous year.

There were 601 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1966.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwives and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1966:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation (including Tetanus)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	147 (140)
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Number of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year	351 (234)
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(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year	145 (139)
---	-----------

Reinforcing doses are not normally considered to be necessary.

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	141 (95)
--	----------

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	8 (3)
--	---------

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(iv) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 3 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation.
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual acuity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic disease, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St. John's Hospital, 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks, but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analyses of Water, Sewage, Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gal. Water Tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory.

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from six boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all six boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date	No. of Colonies Developing on Agar in 2 days in 3 days at 37° C at 22° C		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli.	Remarks
	per 1 ml	per 1 ml	100 ml	100 ml	
No.2. Borehole, Burcot P/Station	Nil	8	Nil	-	Satisfactory
No.2 Borehole Sugarbrook P/Station	3	7	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Washing-stocks P/Station	Nil	1	Nil	-	"
Old Engine House - Washing-stocks	2	2	Nil	-	"
No.2 Borehole Wildmoor P/Station	4	20	Nil	-	"
No.1 Borehole Brockhill P/Station	2	2	Nil	-	"

Chemical Analysis

Wildmoor No.2 Borehole, 7th November, 1966

Colour Colourless
Odour None
Deposit None pH 7.1

Parts per million

Suspended matter (Dried at 100° C)	-
Total dissolved Solids (Dried at 180° C)	150
Chlorine present as Chloride	13

Contd/

		Parts per million
Hardness	Non-Carbonate	26
"	Carbonate	66
"	Total	92
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen		Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen		5.4
Nitrite Nitrogen		Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27° C)		0.28
Toxic Metals		None detected
Residual Chlorine		0.01
Synthetic Detergents (As Manoxol)		-
Phosphates (as PO ₄)		-
Free Carbon Dioxide		10.0

Analyst's Report

The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent action but is fairly hard.

(d) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough Boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2693
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	2

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The year 1966 proved to be one in which detailed plans were made for the sewerage of the town in anticipation of Overspill development and also not inconsiderable progress was made with regard to the problem of Sewage Disposal.

The land has been acquired for a new Sewage Disposal Works at Ladywood to cater for 30,000 population, and it is hoped to commence work before the end of 1967, and complete by the end of 1970. The trunk sewers should be commenced and possibly completed during 1968.

Following discussions with the Severn River Authority during 1965 plans were made on a temporary basis to cater for the continued development of the town in the interim period. After consultations with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approval was obtained for the construction of a 'Pasveer' Ditch as a temporary measure, near to the existing Sewage Works in Hampton Road. This work was begun early in 1966 and the ditch was brought into operation before the end of the year, very good samples of effluent being obtained. This ditch will deal with some 250,000 gallons of crude sewage per day, and the Severn River Authority have also agreed that they will allow the existing works (which has a design capacity of 250,000 g.p.d.) to be overloaded up to 325,000 g.p.d. This gives a limit of 575,000 g.p.d. dry weather flow for the town and town development until the new works at Ladywood come into operation.

It soon became evident that Town Development would be so rapid that this limit could be exceeded during 1967. Plans were made for further interim measures, and it is encouraging to report that the Ministry seem to be so impressed with the 'Pasveer' Ditch that a second one (also of 250,000 g.p.d. capacity) has now been approved on a permanent basis at the Ladywood Works.

This now involves priority being given to the laying of the

trunk sewer from Ladywood across Falsam Pits to the Princes Avenue Ejector Station to cater for new development around Newland Hill. It will then be possible to divert some 120,000 gals of sewage at present flowing to the existing works to the second 'Pasveer' Ditch at Ladywood, thus relieving the load there, at a time when development may be taking place on the Boycott Estate.

Needless to say, the Consulting Engineers have had a difficult job calculating the necessary modifications to the sewers in relation to the Master Plan for the town, but this has been done to allow for numerous branch sewers to be laid under the River Salwarpe, and for certain Railway crossings to be made

Under the circumstances, progress to date has been very satisfactory.

3. Refuse Disposal

Tipping on the Borough Refuse Tip adjacent to King George V Playing Fields was discontinued during 1966. This has enabled the tip to be completely covered over and no fly nuisance has since been observed.

An agreement has been entered into to take the refuse from the Borough to the Rural District tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood, which is being run on improved lines, and this arrangement seems to be very satisfactory. Nevertheless, the continued tipping of refuse on this site may produce difficulties when it comes to laying the foundations for houses and flats, as this area is scheduled for residential development. It is essential that a permanent tipping site be found for town expansion, and this must now be done in conjunction with the Rural District Council.

4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean Air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control, etc., and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worth while. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

5. Rodent Control

Inspections were carried out by the Rodent Operative in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. No major infestations were encountered, and the work involved was not substantial. None of the sewers were found to be infested, but it is interesting to note that some minor infestations were related to the demolition of old buildings.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Domestic and Business premises	Agricultural Buildings
Number of properties in the District	2771	6
Total number of properties inspected	71	3
Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	65 5	3 -

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1966:-

A.	<u>Number of new houses erected:-</u>	1966
	(i) By the Local Authority	39
	(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
	(iii) By other bodies or persons	12
B.	<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-</u>	
	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act)	86
	(ii) Number of re-inspections	83
	(iii) Under the Housing Acts Number of inspections Number of re-inspections	40 358
C.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
	1. Under the Public Health Acts	
	(a) Number of notices served	12
	(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices (i) By owners (ii) By Local Authority	12 Nil
	2. Under the Housing Act, 1957	
	(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
	(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	2
	(c) Number of undertakings accepted	Nil
	(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	5
	(e) Number of houses demolished during the year	5
D.	<u>Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act, 1957)</u>	
1.	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	3
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	26
2.	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	2
	(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
3.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspections of all food premises in the town were carried out during the year. Details of the types of premises visited are shown under the heading of "Food Hygiene" in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Greater attention was paid to butchers' shops, bakehouses, restaurants, cafes and ice-cream premises. No meat inspection was necessary as there are no licensed slaughterhouses in the town, the butchers dealing with Abattoirs at Worcester and Bromsgrove.

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and thirty five retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is generally not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. The Gradings of Samples taken during the year are shown below

	<u>No. of samples taken</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Hard Ice-Cream	28	23	3	2	-
Soft Ice-Cream	3	2	-	-	1
Manufacturers' samples taken at various stages along production line	23	16	3	3	1

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, Dealers' Licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Monthly sampling is carried out and he is good enough to supply us with the results as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	7	Satisfactory
Sterilized Milk	-	-
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	Satisfactory

Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests are used or Guinea Pig inoculation if considered necessary.

Chemical sampling for fatty and non-fatty solids is carried out by the County Analyst.

Examination of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

24 lbs. of Codfish
30 lbs. of Canned Tomatoes
18 lbs. of Canned Grapefruit
18 lbs. of Canned Pineapple
24 lbs. of Canned Apricots
6 lbs. of Canned Peaches
6 lbs. of Fruit Salad
36 lbs. of Figs
12 lbs. of Blackcurrants
14 lbs. of Canned Cherries
9 lbs. of Canned Ham
11 lbs. of Canned Pork
6 lbs. of Canned Tongue
6 lbs. of Canned Gooseberries
6 lbs. of Canned Greengages
3 lbs. of Canned Peas

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1966

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table:-

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Para-Typhoid	Polio-myelitis	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
3-4 years	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
5 years +	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
10 years+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	-	1	-	3	-	1

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1966 are shown below:-

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1966		7	6	-	1
Additions to register during the year	- new cases	1	2	-	-
	- Transfers	-	1	-	-
		8	9	-	1
Deductions from register during the year		1	3	-	-
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1966		7	6	-	1

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1966. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but few applications for assistance are being received.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G"
ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1966:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	2
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority	54	66	2
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers Premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	57	69	4

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector</u>	<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
1. Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
2. Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
3. Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
4. Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	1	1	Nil
5. Ineffective drainage of Floors	1	1	1	-	Nil
6. Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	Nil

Number of outworkers - NIL

End of Section "G"

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August, 1967.

To: Her Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Droitwich Town Council.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my 22nd Annual Report of the work of my department during the year 1966.

Matters which I would emphasise and which you will note with interest, are the completion of the Canal scheme and the filling in of the Canal basin in Vines Park. The construction of the 'Pasveer' Ditch and its operation, from which it seems likely that in the foreseeable future, further private development can be recommenced in the Borough. Town Development is well under way and 1967 will see houses being occupied and factories in production. As mentioned in my last report, this will entail a steady and increasing expansion of all services operated by your Council. These will require both care in programming and in ensuring that all monies expended are spent wisely.

A start has been made upon the clearance of larger blocks of unfit property which consists of a number of obsolete terraces in the town, and it is hoped that with this commenced, the next few years will see them cleared and the sites redeveloped.

The appointment of the Housing Manager and the introduction of a Housing Department is notable.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Town Clerk and my other colleagues, together with all the members of my staff for their ever ready and valuable assistance, which has been forthcoming during the year, and in particular I would again thank your Council for your continued support, advice and direction in the department's affairs.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below:-

Accumulations found	2
Visits under Pet Animals Act	4
Visits to Piggeries	3
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	4
Drains tested	4
Drains found defective	3
Visits to Works in Progress	9
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Visits re: Improvement Grants	98
Repairs and Public Health conditions	86
Re-inspections re above	83
Housing Act inspections	40
" " re-inspections	358
Visits to Factories re Trade Effluents	12

Rodent Control

Primary visits	23
Re-visits	38
Factory Act visits	69

Food Hygiene

Visits to:	
Butchers' shops	31
Bakehouses	24
Confectioners' shops	15
Grocers	23
Greengrocers	7
Fried Fish & Chip shops	24
Ice Cream shops and Manufacturers	62
Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School Kitchens	112
Factory Canteens	13
Licensed Premises	21

Visits:

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	40
Clean Air Act	14
Water Supplies	5
Council Tip	19
Caravans	29
Lido	7
Sewage Works	27
Miscellaneous visits	143

Housing

During the year five houses were represented to the Borough Council as being unfit, and three Demolition and two Closing Orders were made. The Borough Council set up a Sub-Committee to consider the re-development of several areas of the town which were obsolete and ready for demolition and re-development. The first was a small terrace of five houses in Hill End and in this respect the Borough Council decided to make a clearance area. The appropriate notices were served, and at the end of the year the decision of the Ministry was awaited. Similar action was being taken in respect of the terrace of cottages in The Holloway, being Nos. 51 - 91. These houses are obsolete and the Borough Council decided to make this area also one for clearance action. The Housing Committee decided that it would be desirable to re-develop the site with a group of dwellings suitable for aged persons with accommodation for a Warden. This was briefed to the Chief Planner/Architect to the Development Committee, and at the end of the year a decision of the Minister upon the Clearance Area was awaited and proposals were being prepared for the re-development of the site. It is hoped that by the experience gained with these two areas, the Council will be better able to judge the major re-development of Hill End and certain other small areas of the town.

Council House Improvements and Modernisation

The second Improvement scheme, that of Manning Road, was completed and this contract proved to be equally successful and popular, on completion.

At the end of the year, a scheme was out to tender for improvement to houses in Charles Henry Road and Elizabeth Avenue. It is hoped that 1967 will see this scheme well under way.

Council House Maintenance and Building

1966 saw the setting up of a Housing Department and the appointment of Mr.P.Asquith as Housing Manager. The actual execution of repairs is still carried out by direct labour operating from the Borough Surveyor's Department, which is undoubtedly the most economic method of housing repair for an Authority under 100,000 population.

Additional garages were built as infilling at St.Richards Gardens and Albert Street. These were quickly tenanted.

Further infilling and re-development was in progress with bungalows upon various sites at St.Peter's Crescent and Steynors Avenue and a number of flats at the junction of The Holloway and Charles Henry Road, and the junction of St.Peters Crescent and Mayflower Road.

No external house painting was carried out during the year, as the house painting programme had been completed. With the transfer of tenants, particularly to small bungalows or flats, the amount of work required by your own Council's painters upon internal decoration continues to increase.

The Hanbury Road housing contract was nearing completion. This was delayed for a whole variety of causes. The estate, as it nears completion, is beginning to present an attractive appearance, and there would appear to be little doubt that as the years go by and the buildings settle in, it will be an interesting and pleasant place to live. The Warden's bungalow is occupied and the small close of bungalows is proving popular.

Improvement Grants

Five Improvement Grants were made during the year, and some useful re-development took place, five dwellings resulting. The following dwellings were improved:-

Conversion of one Coventry Charity Almshouse into four flats, with a grant of £1,510.

No.3, St.Nicholas Street with a grant of £115.

Private Building

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, private building has practically ceased except for infilling by isolated houses because of the need for a further Sewage Works to be provided to receive the drainage from other estates. During the year it was decided to build a second permanent 'Pasveer' Ditch at Ladywood. This would be capable of quicker construction and the Council decided to press ahead with the Trunk Sewer from Ladywood up to the town, which, in conjunction with the 'Pasveer' Ditch would allow a measure of development to proceed. It was considered that further drainage would be permitted upon the completion of the 'Pasveer' Ditch about the Autumn of 1968, and it was decided to give priority to the laying of the Trunk Sewer from Ladywood along the Salwarpe Valley and up to Princes Avenue, which would then permit private development in the South Eastern part of the Borough, to commence at a fairly early date.

New Buildings

With the introduction of the new Building Regulations, the supervision of buildings becomes an even more complicated and skilled process. This has resulted in particular problems relating to small structures, such as garages and car ports. These are now regulated, particularly from the point of view of fire risk. The Regulations are frequently not appreciated by the person submitting the plans, but there is no doubt that these are wise precautions.

The amount of planning control and the work required upon the submission of plans to the Borough Council is becoming extensive.

New Buildings (Contd)

Steps were taken during the year to inspect all the petroleum installations in the Borough and this was done with the Fire Officer to ensure that all the conditions of the Licences were in fact complied with. A number of small contraventions were found and these generally were rectified, on request to the person concerned.

Certain interesting applications for planning permission were received, in particular Ayrshire House, was the subject of an application for change of use into offices. This caused a great deal of local interest and the Council very carefully and thoroughly considered the matter. In due course, following negotiations with Messrs. Impalco, the applicants, and discussions with the Worcestershire County Council, as planning authority, the change of use was agreed.

Outline applications in respect of a considerable area of land in the south eastern part of the Borough were also before the Council at the end of the year, and with the clarification of the problems and the possibility of fixing a date for the operation of the new Sewage Works it seemed likely that 1967 would see authorisation for further private development.

Further development on the St. Andrew's Estate was authorised, and 1967 should see the completion of this particular development.

Town Development

The impact of Town Development is beginning to make itself felt upon the Department. Chawson Roads and Sewer works were almost completed during the year and the construction of the roads and sewers at Berry Hill Industrial Estate were well in hand. The first factories on this estate were being built and these of course were subject to routine building inspection by the Building Surveyor. One fairly large factory is in the Rural District and it is learnt that the Borough boundary is not likely to be extended as early as had been hoped, so we have the situation that at least one of the factories being built is in the Rural District and is discharging waste into the Borough sewers. An agreement with the Rural District Council that the responsibility for building inspection shall be by this Department ensures similar standards throughout the estate, and trade waste agreements will be with your authority. It is hoped that the Borough boundaries will be extended to cover this area in 1963. A number of houses at the entrance to the industrial estate had to be demolished following the re-housing of the tenants.

Brine Survey

Local knowledge relating to the pressure of brine below the town is very limited. As a result the Development Committee has decided to undertake a survey and the sinking of trial boreholes in conjunction with the Geological Survey Department. This was carried out during the year and a great deal of very useful and interesting geological knowledge obtained, from which it became very apparent that the part of the Borough within the Town Development area is not likely to be affected by brine settlement.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection has continued without undue difficulty throughout the year, and I am glad to be able to record that a good regular and systematic refuse collection service has taken place. Due to an unfortunate road accident, one refuse lorry was severely damaged and had to be replaced. The opportunity was taken to replace it with a lorry capable of handling containers, and it was thought that the container system would be extremely useful at the Hotels and also for trade waste collection from factories, which would be coming to Droitwich quite early. The new lorry was expected for delivery early in 1967.

Refuse Disposal

Your refuse tip at the King George Playing Fields was completely filled during the year and a good deal of thought was given to the site for a new tip. Consideration was given to the provision of some form of pulvherisation and the making up of low ground along the Salwarpe Valley. At the same time negotiations were continued with the Rural District Council to ascertain whether that Authority could receive refuse from the Borough. In due time, the Borough Council felt that it would be wiser to allow refuse to be disposed of outside the Borough, even though it may be somewhat more costly, and as a result, proposals for a local scheme of disposal ceased and negotiations pressed ahead with the Rural District Council. In due course an agreement was entered into that the Borough Council should be permitted to tip at Briar Coppice tip until this was filled, and the Rural District Council, on their part, continued negotiations with the Hanbury Harf Brick Company for the old clay pit to be used for tipping. At the end of the year it looked as though these latter negotiations would be successful. Tipping at the Briar Coppice tip had by then commenced.

Salvage Collection

Salvage was collected as follows during the year:-

Mixed Waste Paper	£264. 16. 0.
Scrap Metal	51. 18. 11.
	<u>£316. 14. 11.</u>

There is little doubt that the implementation of the collection of further salvage could be carried out, but this is really better introduced at the point of disposal which is at the Rural District Council tip. It is hard to believe that products, many of which have to be imported, should be allowed to be thrown to waste, when by handling they could be processed and re-used.

Sewage Disposal Works

This year saw a quiet revolution in sewage purification in Droitwich when the 'Pasveer' Ditch oxidation tank commenced in 1966, and built in the Canal basin, was completed. I was allowed to go to Holland to inspect Ditches in use in that country, and there I learned much upon the subject and I was able to bring the Droitwich plant into operation when it was ready without undue difficulty. This system has proved most effective and came into use in September, 1966. A satisfactory effluent quickly resulted and this steadily improved over the "settling-in" period of three months. Furthermore the quality improved until by the end of the year a good steady standard of effluent was being discharged to the River amounting to some 200,000 gallons per day, the Sewage Works themselves, thus having their load reduced, were allowed time for resting and recovery. By the coming summer it is hoped that the effluent from the conventional Sewage Works will also be much improved in standard.

So satisfactory was the effluent from the 'Pasveer' Ditch that the Borough Council decided to build a permanent one at Ladywood in order to facilitate quicker implementation of the disposal plant at this site, and to allow for more development to take place in the Borough. The provision of the 'Pasveer' Ditch aroused considerable interest and visitors from all parts of the country were coming to look at it.

Sewers

The sewers were maintained in satisfactory working order and a further programme of jetting was carried out, i.e., cleaning by high pressure jet of water. This is proving most satisfactory and since its introduction, and the thorough cleansing of the worse areas of the sewers, very few obstructions or blockages have occurred.

Highways

The report made in 1965 upon mechanical means of sweeping was approved by the Borough Council and a "Verro" vacuum sweeper purchased. This came into operation in May and has given very satisfactory results. The whole of the carriageways in the Borough have been swept each week, which is a vast improvement on anything done before. A small gang of two men have carried out the footpath sweeping and I think that the general cleanliness of the town has been appreciated by local residents.

The continued improvement of The Holloway was maintained, the public footpaths extended so that now a public footpath runs from Tagwell Road to Hanbury Road.

The scheme for the improvement of Old Coach Road was again delayed due to the difficulty of obtaining planning permission until land at the junction with the A.38 had been purchased to give an adequate sight line. This was in hand at the end of the year, and it is hoped that 1967 will see the improvement of this very narrow thoroughfare.

Canal Scheme

The brine reservoir has now been operating for twelve months successfully and as suitable spoil became available, the Canal basin through Vines Park was filled. Practically the whole of the basin is now filled and certainly the nuisance from appearance and smell has been obviated. It is hoped during the Spring and Summer 1967 to be able to cover the filled basin with top soil so that it can be seeded down, mown and kept in a neat and tidy appearance.

British Railways have for some years been endeavouring to reconstruct one of their bridges across the canal at Netherwich by filling in and the formation of an embankment over the Canal, merely a culvert being allowed through the embankment to deal with drainage. British Rail have been pressing that approval should be given to this project, they have again raised the matter, and it would seem that a decision must be given shortly. At the same time, tentative suggestions have been made by the officers of the Development Committee that serious consideration should be given to the use of the Canal either as a thoroughfare, or better still as a waterway.

The Canal at Salwarpe has been breached on both sides of the Canal bridge with the approval of the Severn River Authority, and the drainage water now discharging from the bed of the Canal flows into the river. This is clear water and the channel is now quite small down the centre of the Canal, and this is quickly weeding over. It is hoped that the complaints from smell may now cease.

LIDO

The Lido operated without particular difficulty during the past season. The Pool Superintendent achieved a good standard of purity in the water for the whole season and there were no noteworthy difficulties. There are still many improvements necessary, and it will be pleasing when the Council's future policy for the Lido can be settled in order that necessary improvements can be attended to.

A new and striking advertisement board was erected in the Park fronting the A.38.

Parks and Open Spaces

The year 1966 saw the appointment of a Parks Superintendent and it is hoped that with this appointment, much better attention to detail and efficient working will result as the Head Gardener has had to endeavour to incorporate both supervision and gardening work, without transport, and this has been practically impossible. Furthermore, the Council purchased additional grass cutting machinery, which last year allowed a much better standard of maintenance to be achieved.

Parks and Open Spaces (Contd)

There are more and more open spaces requiring to be cut, and this work has become a very substantial item, presenting a difficult problem at the peak of the growing period.

The Park and King George Playing Fields, Vines Park and the Park Bowling greens have all been maintained in satisfactory order. Following complaints early in the season, particular attention was given to the bowling greens and these were satisfactory a short time after opening.

Now that the Refuse Tip is filled, it is hoped that before long the tipped area can be reclaimed and made into playing fields.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

